

REMARKS

Claims 21-35 are pending in the application and have been examined. The Examiner's indication of the allowance of Claims 22-27 and the allowability of Claims 29-31 and 33-35 is noted with appreciation. Claims 29-31 have been amended. Claims 21, 28, and 32 stand rejected. To advance to issuance a patent, Claims 21, 28, and 32 have been canceled without acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection of the canceled claims, without abandonment of the invention of the canceled claims, and without prejudice to applicants to file an application seeking a patent directed to the invention of the canceled claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and allowance of Claims 22-27, 29-31, and 33-35.

The Rejection of Claims 21, 28, and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 28, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,968,477 (Kasina et al.) in view of Giblin et al. (1997) *Bioconjugate Chem.* 8:347, and over Kasina et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,849,261 (Dean et al.). Claims 21, 28, and 32 have been canceled obviating this grounds for rejection.

The Objection to Claims 29-31

Claims 29-31 and 33-35 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 29-31 have been amended to remove the dependency to Claim 28. As amended, Claims 29-31 relate to the recited sequences. Claims 33-35 depend from Claims 29-31, respectively, and are believed to be in condition for allowance because the claims from which they depend are have been amended and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, applicants believe that Claims 22-27, 29-31, and 33-35 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a

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telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the applicants' attorney at 206.695.1755.

Respectfully submitted,

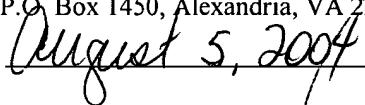
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